

News Release

Education Information Services ■ 125 South Webster Street ■ P.O. Box 7841 ■ Madison, WI 53707-7841 ■ (608) 266-3559

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DPI-NR 2011-27

Tuesday, March 22, 2011

Contact: Patrick Gasper, DPI Communications Officer, (608) 266-3559

Wisconsin ranks seventh in nation for expanding AP access, achievement

MADISON — Twenty school districts from Wisconsin were honored for increasing both opportunity and performance on Advanced Placement (AP) exams. Only six states placed more local education agencies on the AP Achievement List released last week by the College Board, which runs the nationwide AP program.

“It’s great to see the College Board affirm Wisconsin’s achievements in serving our students through Advanced Placement classes and exams,” said State Superintendent Tony Evers. “AP is an effective way of ensuring that students graduate ready for further studies and the workforce, and passing an AP exam is a good predictor of a student’s success in college.”

School districts made the achievement list by increasing AP exam participation between 2008 and 2010 by a certain percentage depending on district size, while ensuring that participation by students of color and overall performance of all students either increased or held steady during the same time period.

Wisconsin has made a concerted effort, through providing state, federal, and other grants to districts, to increase the numbers and diversity of students taking AP courses while at the same time increasing students’ scores on the exams. Over the last five years, participation in AP exams by Wisconsin students has gone up 24.3 percent. At the same time, 18.3 percent of Wisconsin’s AP-exam-takers earn at least a score of 3 (out of 5). This is higher than the national average of 16.9 percent and better than any other Midwestern state.

In addition to the 388 public school districts from around the country that were included on the AP Achievement List, the College Board named four AP Districts of the Year, honored three districts for the greatest increases in number of scores of three or higher and three additional districts for the greatest increases in participation by students of color.

California landed the most districts on the AP Achievement List (37), followed by Michigan (29), New York (28), and Pennsylvania (28). Wisconsin tied Massachusetts for 7th place.

###

NOTE: A list of Wisconsin school districts to make the list follows. This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpinr2011_27.pdf. The College Board’s news release and the complete AP Achievement List are online at <http://press.collegeboard.org/releases/2011/college-board-honors-4-districts-advanced-placement-district-year-awards>.

Wisconsin school districts on the AP Achievement List, 2011

Appleton Area School District

Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District

Columbus School District

Monroe School District

D.C. Everest School District

Mt. Horeb Area School District

Germantown School District

Mukwonago Area School District

Green Bay Area Public School District

Rhineland School District

Hudson School District

Stevens Point Area School District

Kimberly Area School District

Watertown Unified School District

Madison Catholic Diocese

Wauwatosa School District

Marshfield School District

West Bend School District

Menomonie Area School District

Wilmot UHS